

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE February 2, 2022 — MINUTES

### **Council Members Present**

Mary Durham, Council Chair  
Patty Anderson, DRTX  
Ronnie Browning  
Debbie Carlisle  
Gladys Cortez  
Kyle Cox  
Andrew Crim  
Jennifer Hines, TWC  
Juan Carlos Lopez  
Scott McAvoy  
Amanda Miles  
Meagan Orsag, Texas A&M  
CDD  
Angie Panzica  
Justin Porter, TEA  
Holly Riley, HHSC/Older  
Americans Act  
Robert Schier III  
Eric Shahid  
Meridith Silcox  
Lora Taylor  
Jamie Thomas  
Kim Torres  
Dana Williamson,

HHSC/Medicaid

Audrey Young, DSHS  
Nina Zuna, TCDS

### **Council Members Absent**

Maverick Crawford  
Michael Peace  
Randell Resneder

### **Guests Present**

Tessie Ajala  
Jennifer Bacak  
Lee Brown  
Diana Chavarria  
Ivy Goldstein, DSHS  
Cassie Grandin  
Rebecca Japko  
Debbie Kizer  
Linda Litzinger  
Laura Marquez  
Antonio Martinez  
Blake Roach  
Gloria Smith

### **Regional Coordinators**

#### **Present**

Morgan Bradley  
Erin Fogarty  
Rosa Guel  
Skyler Mueller  
Shelby Vaughn

#### **Staff Present**

Beth Stalvey, Executive  
Director  
Scott Daigle  
Lauren Gerken  
Sabrina Gonzalez  
Genessee Klemm  
Le Lien  
Evan Marczynski  
Sylvia Medina  
Richard Rendon  
Mary Rochford  
Rey Valldejuli  
Koren Vogel

### **Call to Order**

The Committee of the Whole of the Texas Council for Developmental convened on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at the Lone Star College – Tomball Community Library, 30555 Tomball Parkway, Tomball, TX 77375 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. A quorum was present.

#### **1. Introductions**

Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Chair Durham facilitated

the introduction of new Council members including:

- Amanda Miles, a self-advocate from Alvin (replacing Paul Cardarella) for a term to expire in 2025.
- Debbie Carlisle, a parent advocate from San Antonio (replacing Molly Spratt) for a term to expire in 2027.
- Kyle Cox, a self-advocate from College Station (replacing Kimberly Blackmon) for a term to expire in 2027.
- Angie Panzica, a self-advocate from Houston (replacing Hunter Adkins) for a term to expire in 2027.
- Jamie Thomas, a parent advocate from Abilene (replacing Kristen Cox) for a term to expire in 2027
- Juan Carlos Lopez, a self-advocate from south Texas (replacing John Thomas), for a term to expire in 2023
- Meredith Silcox, a service provider from the YMCA in Houston (replacing Toby Summers), for a term to expire in 2027

## 2. **Public Comments**

The Committee of the Whole received public comments from Debbie Kizer of Imagine Art who thanked the Council for funding a Community Peer Support Specialist project and a Community Inclusion mini-grant.

## 3. **Grantee Presentation: Alamo Area Council of Governments – Support and Empowerment for Adults with IDD and their Caregivers**

The Committee received a presentation from Diana Chavarria and Antonio Martinez of the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) on the Support and Empowerment for Adults with IDD and their Caregivers project. The project provides a holistic approach for aging adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by offering courses aimed at improving their quality of life through training in finance, spirituality, mental wellness, nutrition, physical fitness, and general health.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, AACOG offered classes during standard business hours to target individuals participating in day-habilitation programs. Individuals not in those programs were still eligible to attend. The program shifted to virtual classes due to the pandemic and classes were held both on weekdays and weekends. Participants in the program included individuals with disabilities, caregivers, and professionals.

Resources such as support groups and assistance with financial applications were provided within the program and connections to local community agencies were made upon completion of the program. The project also created an IDD Resource Guide for Bexar County and designed a Health Passport using person-centered thinking practices.

Plans for project sustainability include sharing the program curriculum with other Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities (LIDDA) and potentially developing alternate versions of the curriculum that can be taught by self-advocates.

**4. Agency Reports**

The Committee received updates from Patty Anderson, Disability Rights Texas, Dana Williamson of HHSC/Medicaid programs, Audrey Young of DSHS/Maternal-Child Health programs, Holly Riley of HHSC/Older Americans Act programs, Jennifer Hines of Texas Workforce Commission, and Meagan Orsag, Texas Center on Disability and Development. Members also received written updates from the agency representatives.

**5. Future Agenda Items**

Durheim and Executive Director Beth Stalvey introduced Blake Roach, Appointments Manager for Governor Greg Abbott’s office and thanked him for his efforts in securing members for the Council.

Members discussed future topics for meetings including preparation for legislative advocacy and were invited to provide other suggestions to Stalvey or Durheim.

**6. Council Member Networking**

Members introduced themselves to the newly appointed members and shared their advocacy efforts, goals for Council participation, and ideas for future activities.

Adjourn

Council Chair Durheim adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 12:35 PM.

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Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council    Date